

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 2, with the following replacement Abstract:

Methods for preventing or treating an ~~antibody-mediated disease~~ IgE-mediated allergic disease in a patient are presented, the methods comprising administration of a monoclonal antibody capable of binding to a human CD40 antigen located on the surface of a human B cell, wherein binding of the antibody to the CD40 antigen prevents the growth or differentiation of the B cell. Monoclonal antibodies useful in these methods, and epitopes immunoreactive with such monoclonal antibodies are also presented.